

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/506,719

Examiner

HUNG S. BUI

Applicant(s)

SUGAWARA ET AL.

Art Unit

2841

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed on 01/07/2009.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-24 (renumbered 1-23).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).**
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 01/07/2009
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 02/04/2009.
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with the attorney for applicant Ellen Marcie Emas on 02/04/2009.

The application has been amended as follows:

- Claim 1, in lines 16-18, delete "is provided in said main body, for ... is not correct." and insert – is a rib extending to a direction intersecting with other end of said memory substrate and restricts advancement of said memory substrate into said main body by contacting with other end of said memory substrate if assembly posture of said memory substrate with respect to said main body is not correct. -
- Claim 2. (canceled)
- in claim 3, line 1, delete "to claim 2" and insert – to claim 1 -;
- in claim 5, line 1, delete "to claim 2" and insert – to claim 1 -;

2. Claim 1 is directed to an allowable product. Claims 11-24 are previously withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction species requirement, Claims 11-24 are hereby rejoined and fully examined for patentability under 37 CFR 1.104.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 1 and 3-24 are allowed.

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Neither cited references nor the prior art of record alone or in combination, discloses, teaches, suggests or render obvious that an external storage apparatus having "a main body, a substrate holder having a substrate insertion through-hole therein through which said memory substrate to be inserted, for fixing said memory substrate to said main body under in such a way that said external connection terminal projects outward from an opening at one end of said substrate insertion through-hole; and wherein erroneous assembly restricting means is a rib extending to a direction intersecting with other end of said memory substrate and restricts advancement of said memory substrate into said main body by contacting with other end of said memory substrate if assembly posture of said memory substrate with respect to said main body is not correct." as claimed in the claim 1. Claims 3-24 depend on the claim 1.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

5. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure:

- Ni et al. [US 7,364,445] disclose USB flash device with rubber cover;

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- Ni et al. [US 7,438,562] disclose universal serial bus flash memory device with metal wrap formed over plastic housing;
- Huang et al. [US 6,994,568] disclose portable storage device; and
- Lin [US 6,999,322] discloses memory stick having a USB port.

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to HUNG S. BUI whose telephone number is (571)272-2102. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30AM-6:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dean A. Reichard can be reached on (571) 272-2800 ext. 31. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Hung S. Bui/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2841
02/04/2009

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